

## **Fast Food Nation Lesson Plan**

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Greeting**

Good morning! Thanks for joining us today. Except for perhaps your Orientation visit, how many of you are on campus for the first time? Welcome to LSU and to Baton Rouge.

#### **B. Introduction**

My name is \_\_\_ and I'll be leading our discussion for the next hour or so. I work at \_\_\_. At the end of this morning's session I'll have my business cards available if you'd like to take one so you can contact me at a later date if you have questions about your course assignments or LSU in general.

#### **C. Opening Questions**

How fortunate we are to have just heard Eric Schlosser talk about his book. (Add a sentence relating to some statement Schlosser made during his talk.)

When you began reading it, how many of you realized that all his statements were researched and documented? (90 pages!)

Did that surprise you or did you expect that?

Did that make reading the book seem more credible to you?

Has reading this book changed your behavior in ordering fast food? How?

### **II. Turning the “dark side” to a “brighter side”**

As we discuss the “dark side” of fast food let's think of ways some of those issues could be addressed to create a brighter picture. I'd also like to leave room at the end of the hour for you to share any other comments or personal experiences relating to fast food that we don't cover in our conversation.

**A. Obesity. We know that fast food contributes to obesity, including obesity in children. Wendy's is using Baton Rouge as a test site to allow customers to substitute chili, a baked potato or side salad for fries in their value meals at no added cost.**

**What else can be done do to help reduce the obesity epidemic?**

(McDonald's eliminating supersizing; Congress banning advertising aimed at children that promote foods high in fat in sugar, including foods in schools; avoiding/reducing fast food, etc.)

**B. Food Safety. We read about the lack of food safety beginning with the food fed to the animals all the way to the food served in the restaurants and schools and packaged for our consumption at home. What can be done? For example: Is the government doing enough to prevent Mad Cow disease in the United States?**

(Would mandatory testing improve the current voluntary testing program and enforce keeping downer animals out of food supply? Right now the same agency that promotes agriculture – USDA – is also supposed to police it. Is this doable? )

**C. Safety practices of the industry. Schlosser says that the fines that have been imposed on the meatpacking companies have done little to change the safety practices of the industry. One third of meatpacking workers are injured every year. What more needs to be done?** (Permit unions, enforce child labor laws, increased OSHA fines, mandatory plant closures, criminal charges for negligence, etc.)

### **III. What about other issues or reactions to the book or speech?**

#### **IV. Closing**

It is obvious we have all been affected in some way by reading this book, hearing the author, and discussing it this morning. I hope you will have occasion to reflect on it in other classes this year as well. If you would like to take one of my business cards feel free to contact me if you have questions throughout the year. The Reference staff in Middleton Library will also be glad to assist you with your assignments. You may also want to take advantage of information posted on the website for this book. (<http://www.lsu.edu/srp>) Thanks for coming. Have a nice lunch.

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